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COUNTRY Soviet zone of Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Rail Movements in Erfurt

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EVALUATION

OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 5 May 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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The following west-bound rail shipments passed through Erfurt (M 51/Y 36):

18 April 1950

1. Train of 18 flatcars, each carrying one tank, 1 flatcar carrying a field kitchen and 14 boxcars occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets.

19 April 1950

2. Five trains with a total of 100 flatcars carrying 36 tanks, 24 guns, 5 field kitchens and 45 trucks with numbers of the and and 75 boxcars occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets.

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20 April 1950

3. Three trains with a total of 68 flatcars carrying 24 tanks, 24 guns, 3 field kitchens and 29 trucks series, and 42 boxcars occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets.

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21 April 1950

4. Trains with a total of 64 flatcars carrying 48 tanks, 12 guns, 1 field kitchen, 9 trucks series, and 38 boxcars occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets.

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22 April 1950

5. Trains with a total of 23 flatcars, each carrying two 76.2-mm rubber tired guns, 15 flatcars, each carrying a truck series, and 8 boxcars occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets.

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20 to 22 April 1950

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6. Eight empty trains with a total of 202 flatcars and 96 boxcars, coming from the direction of Weimar and proceeding toward Weimar.

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Comment:

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a. [redacted] the west-bound trains passing through Erfurt carried component units of the 20th Gds Mech Div, 21st Gds Mech Div and the 39th Gds Atz Rifle Div. [redacted]

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b. Although the detraining area was not identified it is assumed that the trains were bound for Ohrdruf or the Kinnel troop training grounds near Eisenach. The report definitely shows that the Eighth Gds Army units left their military posts after mid-April 1950 to continue their training at troop training grounds. Similar information on successive rail movements of whole troop units has not been received from other parts of the Soviet Zone of Germany. It is expected, however, that similar movements may have also begun in the other army areas at that time.

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